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The Secret of Progress.

The mere statement that eight of the eleven social sins that Gibbon mentions as destroying Rome have been exterminated, poverty, intemperance and the social evil alone remaining, gives hope of a coming era when happiness and virtue will be all but universal. Chiefly is our gratitude encouraged by the new and increasing faith in Christianity, as the religion of sympathy, service and self-sacrifice. As never before, the people feel that the secret of progress is the secret of Jesus Christ. Indeed, Christianity has been called "a beautiful civilization." Setting forth from Bethlehem, it has journeyed across the continents, its breath summer, its presence warmth, its footprints harvests. To-day Christianity does not stand upon the corners of the streets blowing a trumpet before it—it is stealing softly into the human heart, rebuking coarseness and vice and stealing away sorrow and sin. With a heart full of kindness and sympathy Christ has entered the earthly scene, and his tears, falling upon man's vices, are slowly dissolving them.—*Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, in the Woman's Home Companion.*

The Line Fence.

A good lawyer learns many lessons in the school of human nature; and thus it was that Lawyer Hackett did not fear to purchase the tract of land which, says the Lewiston *Journal*, had been "lawed over" for years.

Some of the people wondered why he wanted to get hold of property with such an incubus of uncertainty upon it. Others thought that perhaps he wanted some legal knitting work, and would pitch in red-hot to fight that line-fence question on his own hook.

That's what the owner of the adjoining land thought. So he braced himself for trouble when he saw Hackett coming across the fields one day.

Said Hackett, "What's your claim here, anyway, as to this fence?"

"I insist," replied his neighbor, "that your fence is over on my land two feet at one end and one foot at least at the other end."

"Well," replied Hackett, "you go ahead just as quick as you can and set your fence over. At the end

where you say that I encroach on you two feet, set the fence on my land four feet. At the other end push it on my land two feet."

"But," persisted the neighbor, "that's twice what I claim."

"I don't care about that," said Hackett. "There's been fight enough over this land. I want you to take enough so you are perfectly satisfied, and then we can get along pleasantly. Go ahead and help yourself."

The man paused abashed. He had been ready to commence the old struggle, tooth and nail, but this move of the new neighbor stunned him. Yet he wasn't to be outdone in generosity. He looked at Hackett.

"Squire," said he, "that fence ain't going to be moved an inch. I don't want the land. There wan't nothin' in the fight anyway, but the principle of the thing."—*Selected.*

Making a Life.

"There is no wealth but life—life including all its powers of love, of joy and of admiration. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings; that man is richest who, having perfected the functions of his own life to the utmost, has also the widest helpful influence, both personal and by means of his possessions, over the lives of others."—*John Ruskin.*

The *Advocate of Peace*, Boston, surprises one by the vigor and breadth of its speech. It is the kind of speech that appeals to any sober man.—*The (Los Angeles) Land of Sunshine.*

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